

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 20983 201422Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----129222 201448Z /53

P R 201411Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5918
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T PARIS 20983

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MASS PINS ET SO FT FR
SUBJ: FRENCH COMMENTS ON THE HORN

REF: PARIS 20195 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR JULY 19, QUAI
DIRECTORF POLITICAL AFFAIRS FRANCOIS DE LABOULAYE
CONFIRMED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE DECIDED TO SUPPLY SOME
OF THE SMALL ARMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT REQUESTED BY
SOMALIA. THE SOMALI SHOPPING LIST INCLUDED EQUIPMENT
FOR 100,000 MEN; THE FRENCH WILL FURNISH ONLY ENOUGH
FOR 14,000-20,000. LABOULAYE SAID HE WOULD GIVE US A

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COPY OF THE SOMALI REQUEST.

2. AT THE MOMENT, LABOULAYE CONTINUED, COST AND TIME
FACTORS ARE -DELAYING SHIPMENT. THE SOMALIS ARGUE FOR
AIR DELIVERY ON THE GROUNDS THAT SPEED IS NECESSARY IF
THE ARMS ARE TO ARRIVE BEFORE AN ETHIOPIAN ATTACK. THE
FRENCH WANT TO SHIP BY SEA AS IT COSTS LESS. PRESIDENT

SIAD CONFIRMED TO THE FRENCH AFTER HIS RECENT VISIT TO RIYADH THAT THE SAUDIS WILL PAY FOR THE ARMS. LABOULAYE NOTED THAT IN AGREEING TO SUPPLY THE ARMS, THE FRENCH ASKED THE SOMALIS TO RESPECT DJITOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE. HE HOPED THE US WOULD MAKE A SIMILAR PROVISION IF IT SHIPS ARMS, ALTHOUGH HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE.

3. LABOULAYE SAID THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND THAT MENGISTU RECENTLY CALLED IN EASTERN EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING THE YUGOSLAV, AND GAVE THEM A LECTURE ON THEIR DUTY TO SUPPORT A REVOLUTIONARY, MARXIST-LENINIST REGIME FIGHTING FOR ITS LIFE. THE YUGOSLAVS, FOR ONE, ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT ETHIOPIA'S FUTURE. LABOULAYE SAID THE FRENCH STILL HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL OF A YUGOSLAV ARMS SHIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA. (WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY TO REFTEL.)

4. ACCORDING TO LABOULAYE, THE UK HAS TOLD THE SOMALIS THAT IT IS STUDYING THEIR ARMS REQUEST AND THAT ANY EVENTUAL SHIPMENT WOULD BE CONDITIONED ON SOMALIA'S RESPECTING KENYAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE ALSO STATED THAT ISRAELIS TRANSPORTING ETHIOPIAN TROOPS TO ERITREA IN EL AL PLANES.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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